



# Co-ordinator

## The Letchworth & Baldock District Scout Bulletin

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Chris Gee, 1st 3rd Letchworth, ACSL, on successfully completing his Phase 5 training and gaining his Wood Badge.

### SUMMER CAMPS



2nd Baldock returned to their favourite spot in France - Gorges du Tarn where they enjoyed the hot sunshine and exciting activities. They cooled down in the waters of the river Tarn where they were able to swim and fish. They also had a day's canoeing and white water rafting which was cut short by a thunderstorm. They went for a hike in the mountains at Montpellier le Vieux as well as mountain biking. They had interesting visits to caves at Dargilan, Roquefort cheese caves and a vulture sanctuary where the birds were being reintroduced to the area.

The week was rounded off with meal in a French restaurant.

Beech Springs were also abroad in the Lech Valley in Austria where they undertook adventurous activities such as canoeing, white water rafting, canyoning and climbing.

Two of our Scouts, Joel Miller, 4th Letchworth and Richard Moys, 2nd Weston, went with the County expedition to Mauritius. Hi-light of the first week was a five day hike in dense jungle on mountain terrain. The hike was made even more exciting when the party lost their bearings and special forces and a helicopter were deployed to search for them. The second week was more relaxing on the beach of Reunion where the party also climbed a volcano.

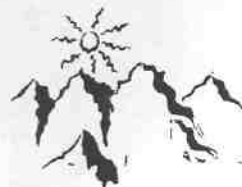


1st 3rd Letchworth also returned to a favourite haunt in the Forest of Dean. Their activities included mountain biking, swimming, kayaking and a hike as well as visits to Clear Well Caves, a coal mine and a maze.

5th Letchworth visited Coetmor Mill where they undertook an overnight hike, canoeing, rock climbing and dry slope skiing. They visited a slate mine and Ken Johnson will be pleased to know that they visited Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrebwill-llandysiliogogoch where they met the Welsh International Commissioner for Scouts.

11th Letchworth joined in the activities at Tolmers, an excellent venue for troops unable to arrange their own camps.

Thanks to all Leaders who gave their time, talents and skills to organize and lead these camps.



MORE...

## Keech Cottage Children's Hospice

I am writing on behalf of the Hospice to thank you for your kind donation of £376.64 towards our funds for the Children's Hospice. Please pass on our grateful thanks to those who contributed towards your St George's Day collection and millennium badge sales

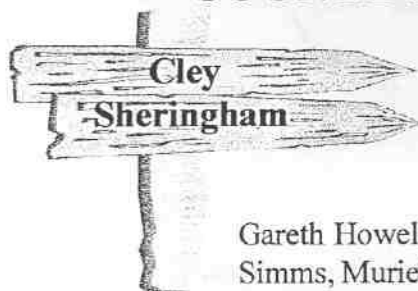
With the generous support of the local community we have reached our £3 million target to build and equip Keech Cottage. We are now concentrating on raising the £1 million needed to run the hospice each year and support such as yours is most welcome in helping us reach this target.

Donations from the local community will directly benefit around 300 families across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Our specialist nurses will be able to provide support, care and guidance to these families who face the difficult task of caring for a terminally ill child.

Once again, many thanks for your support. I can assure you that it is very much appreciated.

D Munro

## COUNTY 25/40 MILE WALK - NORFOLK



Congratulations to Julian Humphreys (Bacchus) and Adrian Lai (Beech Springs) who joined the Forty mile club and Nick Brown (who successfully completed the walk for a second time.

Gareth Howell (SL 11th Letchworth ) joined the 25 mile club and Andy Simms, Muriel Digne Nick Howell and Tim Stroud (all from 11th Letchworth) completed the 25 miles for a second time.

The group set out at first light from Hunstanton as a thick sea mist rolled across the Wash. The first main stop was for breakfast eleven miles later at Brancaster Staithe and then on to Wells for lunch. The flat terrain did not provide easy walking conditions and the last stretch along miles of beach to Wells proved very tiring. After lunch there was a short stretch to Stiffkey to complete the 25 miles. After that the route went on to Blakeney and Cley before following a long shingle bank to Sheringham.

At the end the walkers were exhausted but triumphant - congratulations to them all.

Make a note in your diaries for next year. It is an excellent opportunity for older Scouts to join Ventures in a challenging and exhilarating activity.



Next year's dates are  
29 June to 1 July 2001

## Museum of London - Scout Group Offer

21 July 2000 - 7 January 2001



The Museum of London in conjunction with The Scout Association is pleased to invite all Scout groups to visit the Museum during 21 July 2000 - 7 January 2001 - FREE OF CHARGE.

The Museum which charts the development of London and its people from prehistory to the present day is the world's largest urban Museum.

This year's major exhibition 'High Street Londinium' is a size for size recreation of part of Roman London based on evidence from archaeological excavations at No. 1 Poultry in the City.

Transport yourself back to AD 100 in this fully-fledged reconstruction. Take a stroll around the Via Decumana, the main road of the city and visit the carpenter's workshop, the bakery and pottery shop fitted out as they would have been then.

Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2, close to St Paul's Cathedral. Signposted from St Paul's Underground Station (Central line) On-site parking Free of charge for minibuses, people-movers and single decker coaches, if pre-booked.

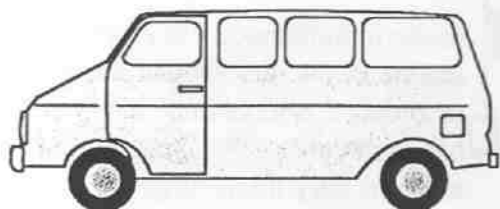
Call 020 7814 5777 quoting 'Scout Association Offer' to claim your tickets. or email us on [groups@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:groups@museumoflondon.org.uk)

## Mini Bus

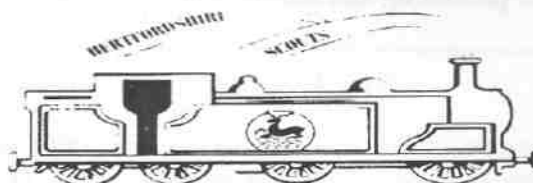
I have heard a rumour that the District has been looking to replace the District mini bus. Well I can confirm that this is true and it is hoped that by early September the District will take possession of a P registration 17 seater mini bus complete with roof rack.

Details of hire charges etc. will be published in next month's co-ordinator.

It is hoped that Groups will make full use of this facility in order to make it a viable proposition



## Lochearnhead - Roadshow 26th September 2000 8th Letchworth H.Q. 7.30pm for 8.00pm



LOCHEARNHEAD SCOUT STATION.

In order to promote the 2001 District expedition to Lochearnhead a roadshow has been arranged.

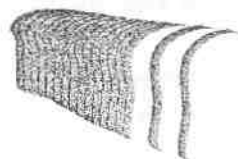
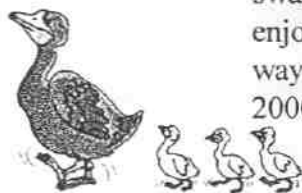
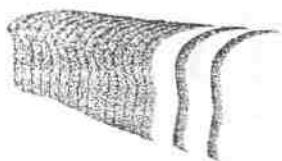
This is open to all parents, Scouts, older Cubs, leaders and helpers. Anybody that is interested in finding out more details about the expedition is encourage to attend.

Booking forms will be available on the day, places will be allocated on a first come basis.

## BEAVER RAMBLE

On Tuesday 27 June, Beavers met at Nortonbury and we all walked across the fields to Radwell where some very hungry ducks were waiting for their tea. On the way we met some cows and Max shouted at one and they walked towards us - some had big horns! When we got there we saw some swans and signets, ducks and ducklings and they really enjoyed eating all the bread we had taken for them. On the way back we took 2000 steps between us for the Beaver 2000 Challenge. It was a lovely sunny evening.

Thomas Durkin  
1st Baldock Beavers (Tuesday)



## Forest of Dean - Camp of the year

We started off at 8.15am, Saturday 29 July. After we had all arrived and all loaded into the bus someone mentioning no names had already started to eat his lunch !!!

We set off raring to go. We arrived four and a half hours later, we set up camp and I put my tent next to the Cubs.... BIG MISTAKE. The next day we were all up, washed and dressed for a 9.30am start mountain biking. We split into two groups Kestrels and Panthers. The Kestrels went biking first with the Panthers taking their turn after lunch.

On Monday the older Scouts went on a one day hike, it was about 10 miles long. Everyone else went to Clear Well Caves. It was a good place to go and visit. The Scouts got back at 5.30pm, just in time for tea. On Tuesday we went climbing and caving. Wednesday, another tiring day. We went to the BIG PIT which is a coal mine, we went 293 feet below the surface to inspect the ancient mine workings. It was very cold. That night we made a fire, we sang songs and played games, it was good fun.

Thursday, we were late getting up but still made it to the water at 10.15am for our morning session of Kayaking. We played water polo.

Friday after looking at the local map we found a nice looking lake to swim in, it wasn't very far. We stripped ready to swim and jumped in. All was going well, the water was lovely. A man who was fishing nearby came over he had a very red face and was shouting words not to be repeated. We were not supposed to be swimming in the lake, it was a very posh, private trout lake.

Saturday we packed up and left the camp at 11.30am and we sang all the way home.

Hayleigh Gee 1st 3rd Letchworth Scouts

## 5th Letchworth Invade Ambulance Station

When we first arrive we went to a small room in the ambulance station. There was an ambulance worker there who answered all our questions. He also showed us some of the main equipment. He then showed us a fairly old ambulance. It was white with the "ambulance" spelt backwards on the front of the ambulance. This was so that cars in front of the ambulance could see the word "ambulance" the right way round.

Inside the shelves and cupboards there were insulators, medicine boxes and much more.

We then went and saw a modern ambulance. We learned that when you start up the engine in the ambulance, the plug ambulance, shoots out. Inside the ambulance it was mainly like the old ambulance. Then our parents came to pick us up. I think the trip was very interesting.





## A CENTURY OF SCOUTING PART: 8

Only twenty boys took part in the first experimental camp on Brownsea Island in 1907. On the fiftieth anniversary, 33,000 Scouts from 90 Countries shared the ninth World Jamboree in Sutton Park near Birmingham - an enormous event which put Scouting in the public eye more than ever before. There were daily television broadcasts from the park; the Post Office issued three special commemorative stamps; among the visitors were the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, with the Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan. Among the thousands of campers were Senior Scouts from Letchworth and Baldock, and a number of others who all unknowing would be part of our District in later years.

Officially, the event was the Jubilee Jamboree, and also a World Conference of leaders, known as an Indaba, in which the Hertfordshire County contingent was led by a former Scoutmaster of First Baldock, now ADC, Frederick Cogar. It was also one of a regular series of Rover Scout gatherings called a Moot; and the words Jamboree, Indaba and Moot provided the nickname "J.I.M."

This was appropriate for the District Scoutmaster (Seniors), Jim Bruce, who was appointed as hike leader for 64 Rover Scouts from different countries, leaving Sutton Park for three days in the Welsh mountains.

On his way to join the J.I.M. Jim stopped briefly in Coventry to see the ruins of the Cathedral and the beginning of the new building that was to replace it; and there an idea came to him for a possible exercise for the Senior Scouts, which came to fruition five years later as "Jim's Mystery Tour".

These years from the middle fifties to the mid-sixties were full of development, and changes for Scouting locally and nationally. The Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, who had visited Hertfordshire's County camp at Gorhambury in 1956, retired for health reasons after a few years, being succeeded by Sir Charles Maclean. Our County Commissioner Graham Wallis also retired in 1956, and Dr Leslie Pears took his place. Another Leslie had been appointed by Graham Wallis in the previous year to be Letchworth & Baldock District Commissioner when Alfred Hodgson retired after ten years' service. And one of Leslie Brown's first official duties happened to be the presentation of the Queen's Scout badge to a First Letchworth Senior Scout, his son Martin Brown.

Another Senior Scout in that troop, also to be a Queen's Scout, Michael Tippet had two younger brothers - Alan in the newly revived Third Boy Scouts, and Paul then a Wolf Cub in First Letchworth. All these sections met on different evenings in the District Headquarters in Icknield Way, which was becoming overworked; and after a fire broke out among stored waste paper early in 1956, the building was unusable for several months. There was a growing demand for more places in the Scout movement, and in February 1957 the DC persuaded the mother of the three Tippet boys to leave the Parents' Committee and become Akela of a new Wolf Cub pack meeting in the hall of Westbury School. With Michael's assistance as an instructor, Kathleen Tippet took the plunge and started the new Fifth Letchworth, adopting the school's uniform colours of purple and grey for the new pack's neckerchiefs.

In the very next month, First Weston Group was re-registered as number 33146 at Imperial Headquarters, after many years of absence in the village. The Reverend Leonard Miller, the ebullient vicar and experienced Scouter, ran the Cub pack almost single-handed for several years, but as the oldest members inevitably reached the retiring age of eleven, the old problem

of finding leaders prevented their progress into a Scout troop. In 1959, however, Letchworth District Rover Crew came to the rescue, providing a rota of instructors training an independent Wolf Patrol, not unlike the patrols that formed spontaneously around the country in 1908. John Pugh was the first Patrol Leader, and as more of the Wolf Cubs came of age, the Patrol Second Richard Clements became PL of the Tigers, and Weston Scouts shared several summer camps with other troops in the District. On a memorable occasion in 1960 while they were at Walesby Forest with First Letchworth, the Weston Scouts marched to Weston in Nottinghamshire, unannounced, and were well received by the Weston Scouts, who gave them tea and a game of cricket, which of course First Weston won.

First Ashwell also found itself part of the upsurge in Scouting at this time. In May 1958, the Wolf Cub pack was re-started by Guy Barrett after too long a recess. Next year, he passed the role of Akela to Bob Smither while he took on leadership of the newly reinstated Boy Scout troop.

Guy Barrett's health was not the best, and in 1960 Bob took over the leadership of the troop. A small building in Mill Street was acquired as the group headquarters and officially opened in October 1961. A redoubtable Ashwell resident, John Ross-Paterson, between organizing local dog shows, acted as Cubmaster, until Mrs Ann Nally took over the pack. Ann's husband was with the USAF at Chicksands, and she and their two sons added a transatlantic dimension to the Ashwell group, in harmony with the Scouting vision of a worldwide brotherhood. During her stay here, Leslie Brown persuaded Ann Nally to take the Wood Badge training course at Gilwell Park, and the consequent effect was that when the family returned home, Ann's experience and enthusiasm were enough to bring about major changes in the training of Cub Scouters with the Boy Scouts of America.

This District had some failures as well as successes. The Salvation Army Scouts, Sixth Letchworth, declined in numbers so that the group registration was cancelled again in 1959. The Cubmaster, Miss Hannah Shannon, soon found an equivalent place with the Third Letchworth pack and turned it into one of the liveliest and most successful in the District for many years. Meanwhile, David Turner had his own brand of genius as Scout master of the Third troop, and both leaders gave vigorous support to the District Gang Show which had become an annual fixture from 1955.

Among many others in the team, Hannah's organization behind the scenes, and David's stage presence, inspired many youngsters to join the remarkable success of those years.

Enthusiasm being contagious, Scouting expanded. At St Paul's new church hall, the parochial church council approved the building of an extension specifically for Fourth Letchworth Wolf Cubs (now expanded to two packs), the Boy Scouts, and the small but active Senior Scout troop which Brian Watkins took over in October 1959, leaving the younger troop in the care of Roy Pynches. A summer fair run by the group to raise money for its new HQ raised the splendid sum of one hundred pounds and one farthing.

Senior Scouts were now well established, though not in large numbers, in most local groups. Peter Blott made sure that First Letchworth were the very best possible; Leslie Dabinett became Senior Scout Leader of Third Letchworth in 1960, and two years later Colin Phillips moved from being Scout master to SSL at the Seventh. First Baldock Seniors naturally flourished for years with Jim Bruce in charge. Second Baldock had no leaders for some time, but continued successfully with help from Jeffrey Robson and other Letchworth District Rover Scouts and October 1959 saw the foundation of the Mallory patrol with the first two Senior Scouts in the Catholic group, Michael Dilley and Clive Knight.

Observing its motto of "Service", the Rover Crew began in 1959 the duplicating and distribution of

a monthly news bulletin for the Scout District. The idea being to help avoid clashes between events organized by the different groups, a title was suggested by Arundel Hoye, and has endured over forty years: "Co-ordinator".

This bulletin, and the agreement of "The Citizen" to print regular Scout news, at first monthly from 1957 and later every week, boosted the movement throughout the District. A new Wolf Cub pack opened on Friday the thirteenth of January 1961 in Grange School, led by Hannah Shannon until Mrs Anne Watkins was appointed as Cubmaster and Alfred Atha became Scoutmaster of the new Boy Scout troop with the brilliant scarlet neckerchiefs. Then in September 1962 came the Ninth Letchworth, a new Catholic Cub pack starting meetings in Hillshott School.

And in the same month, seven teams of Senior Scouts were taken blindfolded and dumped without maps over a wide area of the Midlands, with cryptic clues to solve which should lead them to meet 48 hours later in Coventry. John Hilditch and Ken Reader gained the most points, bringing to First Baldock the trophies for what no one knew at the time would be a series of ten Jim's Mystery Tours. But they are a whole story in themselves..

(to be continued)



## Activity Day At Phasels

Date: Sunday 1 October 2000  
Venue: Phasels Wood  
Cost: £10.00 (includes transport and food)

Come and join in the fun. The District has organized a day at Phasels Wood. Start the morning by abseiling down the 7 metre abseiling tower. Enjoy the thrill of climbing one of the most advanced outdoor artificial rock complex in England. Experience the feel of 120 metres of underground tunnelling. Features include boulder, chamber, water pot, squeezer, large chamber and corkscrew.

For an application form see your Scout Leader or contact Rita Hawkins, 1 South Close, Baldock, Herts SG7 6DS  
Tel: 10462 643432 or e-mail david.hawkins3@ntlworldcom



Apologies from the editor, there were three horrible clangers in last month's "A Century of Scouting Part 7".

In the third line Council Chairman is of course Dr Renton Riddell, KJ tells me that I should have known this as there is a small road named after him, next to The Twitchell - Riddell Close.

On page 7, 10 lines from the bottom it would appear that I promoted Miss Harvey to District Commissioner of course she was a District Cubmaster.

Final clanger, I moved the year of the Festival of Britain, but everybody knows it was in 1951, expect me I wasn't born and did not enjoy history at school.

Thank you to KJ who graciously pointed out my clangers.

The Editor  
Rita Hawkins

**MORE...**

District Training Day - 26 November 2000  
Cottered - County Guides H.Q.  
10.00 am - 4.00 pm

# Social Entertaining Xperience

and a free meal

*This year's training day will take place on Sunday 26 November 2000 so please make a note in your diary. It will be held at the Guide County Centre, Cottered.*

*The programme will include administration involved in running a colony / pack / troop meeting, the Home Contact procedure and communication.*

*After being fed the leaders will go into sectional groups to discuss the programme review and topics relevant to their section.*

*Please come along to share your experiences and skills and learn new ones.*

## District Scout Fishing Competition

The District fishing competition took place at Manor Farm Lakes, Sandy on Saturday 1 July 2000.

The fishing was slow and the biggest catch of the day was by Peter Woolmer who caught a 3lb Carp.



The total catch from the Scouts was an impressive 4oz's.

The overall winners were 4th Letchworth

Thanks to Peter Frankland SL 4th Letchworth for organising the event,

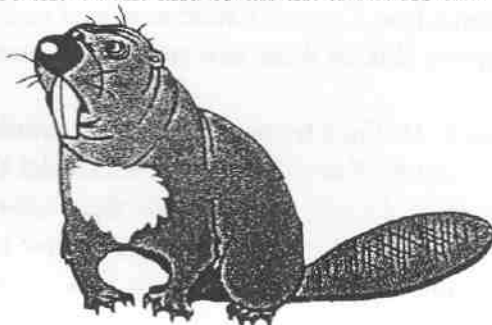


## District Beavers Bangers & Bash

The District Beavers Bangers and Bash took place on Friday 14 July 2000. This provided an opportunity for each Colony to demonstrate their opening ceremony to the new Leaders. Well done Beavers !!

This was followed by a forfeit game organised by Sonja Hall 1st Baldock BSL. The hot dogs and squash went down well and the evening was rounded off with a sing song led by Maggie Miller 4th Letchworth BSL and Mike Smith 4th Letchworth ABSL, and a game before the parents collected the Beavers.

Many thanks go to all the Leaders and Helpers who helped organise the event and to all the Beavers that took part.





## District Barbecue

It was an opportunity to relax with Leaders, Scouts families and friends and a large crowd enjoyed the beauty of Norton Bury. It was pleasing to see a number of new faces. Thankfully we chose the only dry evening of the week. A bouncy castle provided entertainment for the children and the less energetic were able to sit back and enjoy a good meal and drink.

Thank you to all those who helped with the catering, raffle and bar. The surplus money will be put towards the purchase of the new District mini bus.



Due to the success and numbers of people attending the 2001 barbecue will be held during the weekend of 7-8 July 2001. Please keep this weekend free.

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## Nightjar

### 21 - 22 October 2000

Exercise NIGHTJAR, Letchworth and Baldock District Scouts' night hiking competition will take place on the night of the 21/22 October 2000.

The event as usual will take the form of a timed hike along footpaths, designed to test navigational and time keeping skills, plus a series of "incidents" that will challenge the team's ability to solve typical scouting problems.

The event is open to all troops in the District and is in two classes:

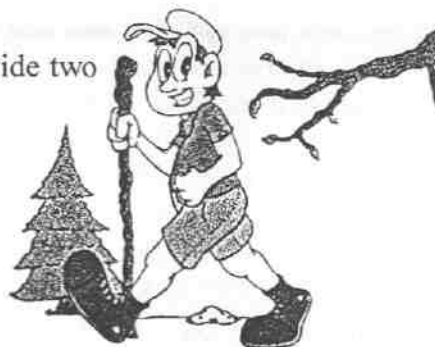
**Junior** (all team members under 13 of age on the night)

**Senior** (all team members under 15.5 of age on the night)

Junior teams may be accompanied by an adult leader, or registered helper; provided that they do not assist the team (except in the case of emergency).

It is expected that if a troop enters a team, they will also provide two adults to assist with the running of the event.

Details and entry forms will be circulated shortly, in the meantime, if you have any questions please contact Chris King ADC (Scouts) Tel: 01462 637901



# Diary Dates 2000

## September 2000

5th	Lochearnhead Meeting - 5th Let H.Q.
6th	Appointments Committee Meeting
11th	Beaver Leader's Meeting
11th	Cub Leader's Meeting
14th	District Executive Meeting
18th	District Beaver Challenge - 8th Let H.Q.
21st	Scout Leader's Meeting
23rd	County Cub Night Exercise
24th	District Cub Sports Day
26th	Lochearnhead Roadshow - 8th Let H.Q.

## October 2000

1st	County Scout Patrol Camping Competition
1st	District Scouts - Phasels Wood
7th	District Beaver Sports Day
12th	District Executive Meeting
14th	Fellowship AGM
21st - 22nd	District Scouts Nightjar Competition
29th	District Cubs Day out - Thorpe Park

## November 2000

9th	District Executive Meeting
10th	District Cub Quiz
12th	Remembrance Sunday
13th	Cub Leaders Meeting
17th	District Scout Quiz
18th - 19th	County Scouts - Green Beret
23rd	District Scout Leaders Meeting
26th	District Training Day

*Distributed by:*  
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## NORTON BURY WARDENS

28 Aug - 5 Sept	Lee & Emma Crossman 634676
5 - 12 Sept	Ann Martin 627439
12 - 19 Sept	Ann Chapman 686772
19 - 26 Sept	Nora Hitcham 627905
26 Sept - 3 Oct	Sheila and David Daws 621699
3 - 10 Oct	Mick Balls 893855
10 - 17 Oct	Gwen Keech 894512
17 - 24 Oct	Pauline Gimson 677993
24 - 31 Oct	Michael Wright 679789
31 Oct - 7 Nov	-----
7 - 14 Nov	Kay Skingsley 672594
14 - 21 Nov	Dave Hawkins 643432

